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64. *Introduction of the Railway.*

Mr. T. Atchuthan Pillai (Member, Alangad Taluk) suggested the desirability of establishing Railway communication between Alwaye and Trivandrum *via* Kunnatnad, Kottayam and Kottarakara. The Member said that Railways played an important part in the advancement of civilization, in the spread of commerce and in the development of the natural resources of a country. More than one-half of this State was still left undeveloped. The poor income of the Quilon Railway was due to the route chosen, which was an uninhabited and mountainous region which could supply only limited traffic. A Railway line from Alwaye to Trivandrum may be expected to pay, as the natives of Travancore stood in need of communication (North and South) from one part of the country to the other. The best means of improving the income of the Quilon Railway would be by connecting it with the Cochin Railway through Kunnatnad, Kottayam and Kottarakara, and also with the Capital. With such a Railway running through the heart of Travancore, it could be said with certainty that the undertaking would be a complete success, and the immense resources of the State would be developed in the course of a few years, and the prosperity of the people would be more than doubled, by the opening up of the hitherto undeveloped parts of the country.

Mr. Madhavan Tampi (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) supported the previous speaker and pointed out the advantages accruing from the extension of the Tinnevelly-Quilon Railway to Trivandrum and to Nagercoil. He referred to the inconvenience caused to those who travelled from Trivandrum to Quilon in having to pass through the Warkkalay tunnel which was in a condition far from satisfactory.

Mr. Francis (Member, Nominated) said that one of the greatest drawbacks of South Travancore was the want of a Railway. The country had no doubt good roads. But the possession of roads, however excellently kept, did not afford the people the facilities of rapid communication—the great need of the times. The Member said that South Travancore was in a doubly disadvantageous position, in-as-much as it was devoid of even the waterways so common in North Travancore where quick methods of transport were being introduced. The establishment of a Motor Service in South Travancore would mitigate to some extent the difficulties and inconveniences of travel now experienced, but could in no way be a substitute for the Railway, as the former could render little help for the transport of goods. The Member requested Government that early steps might

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be taken for the introduction of the Railway into South Travancore.

Mr. Abdul Latiff Essa Sait (Member, Nominated) spoke strongly in favour of extending the Quilon Railway to Trivandrum. The Member said that goods now took four days to come from Quilon to Trivandrum. This meant variations in the market prices to the disadvantage of the importer. The Member suggested the construction of the Railway by forming a Company and asking the latter to raise capital by the issue of shares.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

65. *Opening of a State Bank at Trivandrum.*

Mr. Abdul Latiff Essa Sait (Member, Nominated) suggested the opening of a State Bank at Trivandrum. He said that, under this arrangement, Government money, now kept idle in the treasuries, could be made to bear interest, and there would be no necessity for transmitting money from one treasury to another, as that could be done by means of cheques. The Bank would benefit the public, especially the trading communities.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

66. *To penalize begging on the part of the able-bodied.*

Mr. Kanakku Mathevan Mathevan (Member, Nedumangad Taluk) said that beggars in Travancore were of two kinds, firstly, those who were physically unfit for any labour and were unable to maintain themselves except by begging, and secondly, such able-bodied fellows as could work for their livelihood but who would not do so on account of sheer idleness. The Member prayed that begging on the part of the latter class might be made penal.

Dewan.—The suggestion is hardly practicable.

67. *Entertainment of foreigners in the Public Service*

Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) mentioned that the policy of the Government must be, as far as practicable, to confine the Public Service of this State to its subjects. The entertainment of foreigners in the higher grades must be only for limited periods; and in the lower grades it should be completely stopped, and if any such appointment had to be made under any exceptional circumstance, it must be done with the previous sanction of Government. The interests and happiness of the subjects in each country should be first safeguarded; and it was done best by giving them a full share in the Public Service. The Member said that signs were not wanting to show that the people of the State, as well as

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